Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A method of generating a compressed representation of a two-dimensional image where the image is described as a sequence of pixels in raster order, the method comprising:

receiving the two-dimensional image as a sequence of pixels in raster order;

for each pixel, determining whether the pixel is part of a first string of pixels that is identical to a second string of pixels found previously in the image at one of a plurality of preselected fixed distances from the first string of pixels, where one of the preselected fixed distances is a length of one scan line of the two-dimensional image;

if so, encoding the first string of pixels as a string token that is a reference to the second string of pixels;

otherwise, encoding the pixel as a non-string token.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where one of the preselected fixed distances is one pixel, thereby allowing the first string of pixels to be encoded as a reference to the second string of pixels that occurred one pixel earlier in the two-dimensional image.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where the preselected fixed distances are two in number.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where one of the preselected fixed distances is one plus a length of one scan line of the image, thereby allowing the first string of pixels to be encoded as a reference to the second string of pixels that occurred on an immediately previous scan line, one pixel to the left of the first string of pixels.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where the preselected fixed distances are fewer in number than the maximum fixed distance.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where a length of the first string of pixels is unbounded.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where the string token is encoded by encoding the preselected fixed distance from the first string of pixels to the matching second string of pixels and a length of the first string of pixels.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 where the string token or non-string token is encoded based on one or more previously encoded tokens preceding the string token or non-string token.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further including encoding a single pixel as a ranking based on a distance of its value from a value of a previous pixel.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of encoding the first string of pixels as a reference to the second string of pixels includes dividing tokens into groups and encoding a token by encoding its group and encoding the particular token within a given group with a code.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the token within a group code can be variable length.

46. (Canceled)

47. (New) A computer program product, encoded on a tangible computer-readable medium, operable to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

receiving the two-dimensional image as a sequence of pixels in raster order;

for each pixel, determining whether the pixel is part of a first string of pixels that is identical to a second string of pixels found previously in the image at one of a plurality of preselected fixed distances from the first string of pixels, where one of the preselected fixed distances is a length of one scan line of the two-dimensional image;

if so, encoding the first string of pixels as a string token that is a reference to the second string of pixels;

otherwise, encoding the pixel as a non-string token.

48. (New) The program product of claim 47 where one of the preselected fixed distances is one pixel, thereby allowing the first string of pixels to be encoded as a reference to the second string of pixels that occurred one pixel earlier in the two-dimensional image.

49. (New) The program product of claim 47 where the preselected fixed distances are two in number.

50. (New) The program product of claim 47 where one of the preselected fixed distances is one plus a length of one scan line of the image, thereby allowing the first string of pixels to be encoded as a reference to the second string of pixels that occurred on an immediately previous scan line, one pixel to the left of the first string of pixels.

51. (New) The program product of claim 47 where the preselected fixed distances are fewer in number than the maximum fixed distance.

52. (New) The program product of claim 47 where a length of the first string of pixels is unbounded.

53. (New) The program product of claim 47 where the string token is encoded by encoding the preselected fixed distance from the first string of pixels to the matching second string of pixels and a length of the first string of pixels.

54. (New) The program product of claim 47 where the string token or non-string token is encoded based on one or more previously encoded tokens preceding the string token or non-string token.

55. (New) The program product of claim 47 further including encoding a single pixel as a ranking based on a distance of its value from a value of a previous pixel.

56. (New) The program product of claim 47, wherein the step of encoding the first string of pixels as a reference to the second string of pixels includes dividing tokens into groups and encoding a token by encoding its group and encoding the particular token within a given group with a code.

57. (New) The program product of claim 56, wherein the token within a group code can be variable length.